

What is claimed is:

1. A method of supplying fan-folded sheet stock material to a dunnage converter, comprising the steps of: positioning two or more stacks of fan-folded sheet stock material proximate a dunnage converter, and feeding the sheet
5 material from the stacks of fan-folded sheet stock material to the converter, either sequentially or simultaneously, for conversion into a dunnage product.

2. A method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising the step of loading at least one stack of fan-folded sheet stock material on a support device.
10

3. A method as set forth in claim 2, wherein the loading step includes loading at least one stack of fan-folded sheet stock material on a pallet.

4. A method as set forth in claim 2, wherein the loading step includes
15 loading at least one stack of fan-folded sheet stock material on a portable support device, and the positioning step includes moving the portable support device proximate the dunnage converter

5. A method as set forth in claim 4, wherein the loading step includes
20 loading at least one stack of fan-folded sheet stock material on a cart.

6. A method as set forth in claim 2, wherein the loading step includes loading at least one stack of fan-folded sheet stock material on a support device without interrupting the operation of the dunnage converter.
25

7. A method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the feeding step includes simultaneously feeding multiple plies of the fan-folded sheet stock material from respective stacks thereof to the converter for conversion into a dunnage product.

8. A method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the feeding step includes
30 sequentially feeding a continuous ply of fan-folded sheet stock material from multiple stacks thereof to the converter for conversion into a dunnage product.

9. A method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising the step of operating a dunnage converter to produce a dunnage product.

10. A dunnage conversion system, comprising:

5 a dunnage converter for converting sheet stock material into a dunnage product; and

a supply of sheet stock material proximate the dunnage converter for conversion into a dunnage product, the supply including two or more stacks of fan-folded sheet stock material, the stacks being horizontally or vertically

10 disposed relative to each other.

11. A dunnage conversion system as set forth in claim 10, including a stand for supporting the dunnage converter, the stand including a pair of transversely spaced upright members.

15 12. A dunnage conversion system as set forth in claim 11, wherein the upright members are transversely spaced apart a distance sufficient to receive the supply of sheet stock material therebetween.

20 13. A dunnage conversion system as set forth in claim 10, further comprising a support device on which a least one stack of sheet stock material is loaded.

25 14. A dunnage conversion machine as set forth in claim 13, wherein the support device includes a pallet.

15. A dunnage conversion machine as set forth in claim 13, wherein the support device includes a cart.

30 16. A dunnage conversion system as set forth in claim 10, wherein the stand further includes at least one transverse support member connected at its opposite ends to the upright members.

17. A dunnage conversion system as set forth in claim 16, wherein the at least one transverse support member is selectively moveable between a bottom of the upright members to a position higher than the height of the stacks of sheet stock material.

5

18. A supply of sheet stock material for use with a dunnage converter, comprising a continuous ply of sheet stock material that is fan-folded, and includes a series of folds that together form a sequence of rectangular pages, the pages being piled accordion style one on top of the other to form multiple stacks of sheet stock material.

10

19. The supply as set forth in claim 18, in combination with a support device on which the stacks of sheet stock material are loaded.

20. The combination as set forth in claim 19, wherein the support device includes a pallet.

15

21. The combination as set forth in claim 20, wherein the stacks of fan-folded sheet stock material are horizontally stacked on the pallet.

20

22. The combination as set forth in claim 19, wherein the support device includes a cart.

23. The combination as set forth in claim 22, wherein the stacks of fan-folded sheet stock material are vertically stacked on the cart.

25

24. The combination as set forth in claim 19, wherein the support device includes an inclined supply tray.

25. The combination as set forth in claim 24, wherein the stacks are loaded on the supply tray side-by-side.

30

26. The combination as set forth in claim 24, wherein the stacks are loaded on the supply tray top-to-bottom.

27. The combination as set forth in claim 26, further comprising a
5 shingle bar spaced from the supply tray less than a length of a rectangular page of the stack of sheet stock material to shingle the pages of the stacks.

28. The combination as set forth in claim 19, wherein the support device includes an indexable elevator.

10

29. In combination, a dunnage converter, and a portable support device for supporting at least one stack of fan-folded sheet stock material and from which stock material is supplied to the dunnage converter when the support device is positioned in proximity thereto.

15

30. The combination as set forth in claim 29, wherein the support device includes a cart.

31. The combination as set forth in claim 30, wherein multiple stacks of
20 fan-folded sheet stock material are vertically stacked on the cart.

32. The combination as set forth in claim 31, wherein the multiple stacks of fan-folded stock material are formed by a continuous ply of sheet stock
25 material that is fan-folded, and includes a series of folds that together form a sequence of rectangular pages, the pages being piled accordion style one on top of the other to form multiple stacks of sheet stock material vertically stacked on the cart.

33. A cart for supporting at least one stack of sheet stock material,
30 comprising: a pair of spaced upright members adapted to receive therebetween at least one stack of fan-folded sheet stock material, the upright members having

an inward-facing channel for supporting the sides of the stock material to maintain the stack upright.

34. A cart as set forth in claim 33, in combination with at least one stack
5 of fan-folded sheet stock material.

R:\RANP\PI\P0346\P0346USA.PAT.wpd